

Independent Commission on Judicial Reform West Virginia State Bar Survey

Governor Manchin established the Independent Commission on Judicial Reform to “study the need for broad systemic judicial reforms including, but not limited to, adopting a merit-based system of judicial selection, enacting judicial campaign finance reforms or reporting requirements, creating an intermediate court of appeals, proposing constitutional amendments or establishing a court of chancery.” Executive Order No. 6-09.

The Commission has structured its review in a manner that promotes the following objectives:

- (i) Bolstering public trust and confidence in the judiciary;
- (ii) Preserving the independence of the judiciary; and
- (iii) Encouraging an objective examination of West Virginia’s court system that may result in the adoption of systemic reforms that will modernize and improve West Virginia’s judiciary.

To ensure that these objectives are met, the Commission would like to invite members of the Bar to express their thoughts, comments, and suggestions regarding the Commission’s on each of the three issues identified in Executive Order No. 6-09:

1. Campaign Finance Reform for Judicial Elections:

2. Judicial Selection:

3. Judicial Organization (including, for example, the creation of intermediate courts of appeal or business courts):

Please return this survey by mail or by email October 10, 2009 to:

Independent Commission on Judicial Reform or bdr@goodwingoodwin.com
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Alternately, you may submit your comments online at <http://www.judicialreform.wv.gov/Pages/SubmitIdea.aspx>